

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-11 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 CIEP-02

TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 XMB-04 OPIC-06 LAB-04

SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 L-03 H-02 PM-04 AGR-10

FEA-01 /127 W

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R 121632Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2218

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

USDEL MTN GENEVA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, EEC, DA

SUBJECT: TINDEMANS REPORT DEBATED IN FOLKETING

1. SUMMARY. THE TINDEMANS REPORT WAS DEBATED IN FOLKETING ON FEBRUARY 6. THE DEBATE WAS BASED UPON AN INQUIRY BY SOCIALIST PEOPLES PARTY CONCERNING GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE TO EUROPEAN UNION. INQUIRERS CLEARLY HOPED TO EXPLOIT POSSIBLE CONTROVERSIAL ASPECTS OF THE REPORT TO MOBILIZE LATENT ANTI-MARKET FORCES. PM JORGENSEN AND FOREIGN ECONOMICS MINISTER NORQAARD ANSWERED THE INQUIRY FOR THE UNCLASSIFIED

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GOVERNMENT. INFORMAL TRANSLATIONS OF THEIR STATEMENTS ARE

TRANSMITTED SEPARATELY BY AIRGRAM (STATE AND BRUSSELS ONLY).
THE ENSUING DEBATE DEMONSTRATED PARTY LOYALTY ON THE
GOVERNMENT SIDE, INCLUDING GOVERNMENT PARTY ELEMENTS
PREVIOUSLY OPPOSED DANISH EC MEMBERSHIP. A SOCIALIST PEOPLES
PARTY MOTION FAVORING RETENTION OF LUXEMBOUR VETO RIGHTS
AND OPPOSING EC MILITARY COOPERATION WAS REJECTED BY
A MAJORITY OF 108 TO 39, NOT SO MUCH BECAUSE THE
MAJORITY DID NOT AGREE WITH THE MOTION ON THESE
SPECIFIC POINTS BUT RATHER BECAUSE OF UNWILLINGNESS
TO ACCEPT A SOCIALIST-FORMULATED COMMITMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. THE TINDEMANS REPORT HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF PUBLIC
DEBATE WITH ANTI-MARKETEERS ATTEMPTING TO EXPLOIT SOME
POTENTIALLY CONTROVERSIAL ASPECTS OF THE REPORT. THE
DEBATE WAS CARRIED INTO FOLKETING FEBRUARY 6 WHEN THE
GOVERNMENT ANSWERED AN INQUIRY BY SOCIALISTS PEOPLES
PARTY CONCERNING GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE TO THE
REPORT'S VISION OF EUROPEAN UNION.

2. PM JORGENSEN ANSWERED THE INQUIRY WITH A GENERAL
STATEMENT FOLLOWED BY A MORE DETAILED REVIEW OF
TINDEMANS' REPORT BY FOREIGN ECONOMICS MINISTER NORGAARD.

3. JORGENSEN'S STATEMENT CALLED FOR A MORE INDEPENDENT
ROLE FOR EUROPE AND A STRONGER EUROPEAN COMMITMENT
TO ECONOMIC COOPERATION. HE DID NOT SEE A FEDERAL
STATE AS THE DESIRABLE OR REALISTIC CONSEQUENCE OF
THAT COOPERATION, NOR DID HE CONSIDER IT NECESSARY TO
CHANGE THE ROME TREATY OR THE FUNCTIONS OF THE EC INSTITUTIONS.
JORGENSEN DEFENDED CONTINUED COORDINATION OF POLITICAL VIEWS
AND UNIFIED ACTION ON SPECIFIC TASKS BUT EMPHASIZED THAT WHILE
THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL COULD BE A SOURCE OF IMPULSES, ITS
DECISIONS MUST RESPECT TREATY PROVISIONS. JORGENSEN ASSUMED THAT
A PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY WOULD SUPPORT CONTINUED EUROPEAN
COOPERATION WHETHER UNDER A EUROPEAN UNION NAME-TAG OR SOME
OTHER. THE ENSUING DEBATE BORE HIM OUT ON THIS.

4. NORGAARD SAID THAT IT WAS DESIRABLE FOR EC TO
DEVELOP COMMON POLICIES TOWARD THIRD COUNTRIES,
WHETHER DEVELOPING OR INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES OR
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EASTERN EUROPE. IN CIEC, FOR INSTANCE, DANISH VIEWS
WERE REPRESENTED ONLY THROUGH ITS EC MEMBERSHIP.
NORGAARD GAVE FULL DANISH GOVERNMENT ENDORSEMENT OF
TINDEMANS' PROPOSALS ON THE ECONOMIC AND MONETARY

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UNION (CHAPTER III). HE DID NOT PARTICULARLY FAVOR THE IDEA THAT SOME MEMBER COUNTRIES SHOULD BE PERMITTED TO PROCEED AT A SLOWER PACE THAN OTHERS BUT CONCEDED THAT THIS MIGHT BE THE ONLY WAY TO ATTAIN ANY PROGRESS AT ALL. ON ENERGY, THE DANISH GOVERNMENT ACCEPTED TINDEMANS' PROPOSALS BUT STILL MISSED PROVISIONS FOR A COMPREHENSIVE OIL MARKET REPORTING SYSTEM. EXTENDED COOPERATION IN THE AREA OF NUCLEAR ENERGY WAS ACCEPTED, BUT THE DANES DID NOT WANT TO GRANT AN INTERNATIONAL BODY THE RIGHT TO DETERMINE THE PLACEMENT OF EVENTUAL DANISH REACTORS. ON INSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS, NORGGAARD

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SAID THAT WHILE THE DANISH GOVERNMENT WAS NOT IN PRINCIPLE OPPOSED TO CHANGE, IT DID NOT SUPPORT LEGISLATIVE POWERS FOR THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, IT WANTED POLITICAL COOPERATION TO CONTINUE ON PRESENT TERMS; AND IT WANTED TO MAINTAIN THE LUXEMBOURG VETO RIGHTS ON VITAL QUESTIONS, HOPEFULLY WITHOUT ABUSE BY MAJOR MEMBERS.

5. THE ENSUING DEBATE DEMONSTRATED WILLINGNESS BY LIBERALS AND CONSERVATIVES TO EXPAND EUROPEAN CO-OPERATION FURTHER ALONG POLITICAL LINES. RADICALS MAINTAINED THAT INCLUSION OF SECURITY ASPECTS WOULD REQUIRE ANOTHER DANISH REFERENDUM TO DETERMINE CONTINUED MEMBERSHIP. THE MOST REMARKABLE FEATURE OF THE DEBATE WAS THE GENERAL ACCEPTANCE, OUTSIDE THE EXTREME LEFT, OF DANISH MEMBERSHIP AS A FAIT ACCOMPLI. THIS INCLUDED THE PREVIOUS MINORITY OPPOSITION GROUP ON THE GOVERNMENT SIDE. A MOTION BY THE INQUIRERS, ALTHOUGH QUITE INNOCOUS (IT SUPPORTED VETO RIGHTS, REJECTED MILITARY COOPERATION, AND OPPOSED DIVISION OF EC MEMBERS INTO CATEGORIES) WAS REJECTED BY A MASSIVE MAJORITY OF 108 TO 39 (THE LATTER COMPRISED OF COMMUNISTS, SOCIALISTS AND RADICALS).

6. AS AN AFTERMATH TO THE DEBATE OF THE TINDEMANS REPORT, ALLEGED STATEMENTS BY TINDEMANS CRITICIZING DANISH FOOT-DRAGGING WITH RESPECT TO CLOSER COOPERATION HAVE BEEN REJECTED WITH SOME FERVOR BY FOREIGN MINISTER ANDERSEN. AT A PUBLIC MEETING, ANDERSEN INSISTED THAT THE DANES WERE MORE POSITIVE THAN MOST WITH REGARD TO REALISTIC FEATURES OF EUROPEAN COOPERATION - THOUGH THEY SAW LITTLE POINT IN DEALING WITH SOME OF THE BLURRED VISIONS OF TINDEMANS. REPORTEDLY, DANISH EC AMBASSADOR ERSBOLL HAS MADE LOW-KEY REPRESENTATIONS TO THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT PROTESTING TINDEMANS' COMMENTS ON THE DANISH PERFORMANCE. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, THE LOW-KEY APPROACH WAS CHOSEN ONLY AFTER MEDIATION BY NORGAAARD TO TEMPER ANDERSEN'S IMMEDIATE REACTION.

7. COMMENT: IT IS CLEAR FROM THE DEBATE THAT AN OVERWHELMING PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY FAVORS CONTINUED UNCLASSIFIED

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DANISH MEMBERSHIP IN EC ON PRESENT CONDITIONS AND THAT FURTHER ATTEMPTS BY ANTI-MARKETEERS TO DIS-CREDIT MEMBERSHIP WILL BE FUTILE. IT IS ALSO CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT A MAJORITY EMPHASIZES THE "PRESENT CONDITIONS", I.E., THE LIMITATIONS ON COMMUNITY

AUTHORITIES ESTABLISHED BY TREATY PROVISIONS AS
AUGMENTED BY THE LUXEMBOURG COMPROMISE. THE DANES
WILL GO ALONG WITH A MEASURE OF POLITICAL COORDINATION
IN A PRAGMATIC WAY AND ON AN AD HOC BASIS BUT WILL
NOT WANT TO INSTITUTIONALIZE A POLITICAL AUTHORITY,
PARTICULARLY NOT IN SECURITY MATTERS, WHERE FOREIGN
MINISTER HAS REPEATEDLY REJECTED ANY ALTERNATIVE TO
NATO. IT WOULD SEEM THAT THE GOVERNMENT COULD WELL HAVE
ACCEPTED THE SOCIALIST PEOPLES PARTY (SPP) MOTION AS FAR AS
ITS ACTUAL CONTENT WAS CONCERNED AND IT WAS SUGGESTED BY
COMMENTATORS THAT THE GOVERNMENT OUGHT TO HAVE SUBMITTED
AN ALTERNATIVE MOTION OF MORE OR LESS THE SAME CONTENT.
THE FLAT REJECTION OF THE SPP MOTION PROBABLY REFLECTED
UNWILLINGNESS TO PLAY THE SPP HAND AND TO BECOME
COMMITTED TO AN SPP-FORMULATED LIMITATION ON FUTURE EUROPEAN
COOPERATION.
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